

# e-Bugle

## Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 50

May 2003

No. 5



### Calendar

Sat., May 24	Swimming pool opens, 10 am
Mon., May 26	No trash pickup; Memorial Day
Thurs., May 29	Citizens Assoc. meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 pm: host of bi-monthly meeting of the Coalition of Kensington Communities (see article, this page)
Fri., June 6	Graduates' names and summer dates for June <i>Bugle</i> due
Mon., June 9	Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 pm
Tues., June 10	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm (last one for the summer); <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Sat., June 14	Flag Day
Sun., June 15	Father's Day
Fri., June 20	Last day of school for public schools
Wed., June 25	Citizens Assoc. meeting, Town Hall, 7:30; Town mixer, 8 pm; Snow removal and other Town issues (see article, this page)
Sat., June 28	Street dance for Colon Cancer Alliance, 10715 Montrose, 6:30 to 10 (see Sweet and Sour, p 4)

### Citizens Association News

The Citizens Association will be hosting some new events in the coming months.

**May Meeting: Plans for Kensington Safeway.** On Thursday, May 29, at 7:30 at the Town Hall, the Association will host the bimonthly meeting of the Coalition of Kensington Communities (CKC). The Coalition is made up of 11 communities in and around Kensington. This year-old organization has focused on developing and supporting common positions on issues of concern to our area of Montgomery County. To date, the primary issues raised have been traffic, development, schools/recreation, and adequacy of fire services. CKC and its members have sent letters and given testimony on these issues. For our May meeting, we have invited Safeway to discuss plans for the modernization of its Kensington store. Please come to find out more about this project and about the CKC.

**June Meeting: Snow Removal and Other Town Issues.** On Wednesday, June 25 at 8 pm, the Association will hold a Garrett Park Issues Forum. After the heavy snows this winter, several citizens registered concerns with the Town Office and Council on lack of snow removal from sidewalks, leaving the sledding hill (Argyle) unplowed, and plowing only a single lane on several streets. The Council asked the Citizens Association to host a town meeting at which these concerns could be discussed. Also, several residents and members of the new Council have recently asked the Association to sponsor a forum at

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which issues can be vetted before specific proposals are prepared for possible action by the Council. The Association will respond to both of these requests by hosting an Issues Forum on June 25. If you wish to discuss your concerns and suggestions on snow removal policies and practices, or if you have any other issues you would like to raise, please plan to attend. We would appreciate knowing about issues in advance, to provide notice in the June *Bugle* and prepare for a productive discussion—please contact an Association officer.

**“Social Links” Mixer.** The mixer before our April meeting was not exactly a rousing success—only one person showed up—but we are undeterred! The Association will host another 30-minute mixer immediately before the meeting on June 25, so please let one of our officers know if you would like to connect with other Garrett Parkers who have a particular interest. And if you would like to play some tennis, call Nick Farr.

**Garrett Park Website.** For many years, Martin Trocki and others have faithfully maintained the town’s website at [www.garrettpark.org](http://www.garrettpark.org)—thank you, Martin! The Association is committing funds and time to help Martin improve the site and make it even more useful to residents, and *we need volunteers*. We hope to identify 3 to 5 people who can help gather information and prepare files for posting. We would welcome inquiries from adults and mature teens who have experience with word processing and web software. We would also be interested in sponsoring (and mentoring) some teens to serve as “town reporters” to take photos or write stories on town events. Please contact Gene Brantly ([epb@rti.org](mailto:epb@rti.org)), who is coordinating the Association’s input on this.

**Getting Ready for July.** Matthew Stavish is busy organizing events for the Fourth of July. No doubt he has already tapped some of you on the shoulder to assist. However, more help is always needed. If you are willing to help, please get in touch with him by phone. Later in July, we will host the annual Ice Cream Social, scheduled to coincide with the visit of 15 international visitors.

Ken Schwartz  
Co-President

## G.P. Conservation Trust

Some of you recently received a copy of our new brochure with an invitation to join the organization. Many thanks to those who responded. If you haven’t yet done so, it’s not too late! A vibrant membership in the Trust is vital to establishing and maintaining our tax-exempt status. If you are interested but did not receive a copy of the brochure, please call Ken or Glenda by phone or email [gpctrust@comcast.net](mailto:gpctrust@comcast.net). Also, copies of the brochure will be made available on the bulletin board at the P.O.

Glenda Ingham

## A “Musicale” Success

Despite lacking advertising opportunities due to the Penn Place renovation, and the wet weather that threatened our ticket sellers, the seventh Annual Town Musicale was a big success. We were able to raise \$597 for the Ilah Gieser Music Scholarship Fund for Garrett Park Elementary.

This year we had country-western singing moms, banjo-picking/fiddle-playing teens, our light-hearted town chorus, classical instrumental pieces, and the performance of our famous Garrett Park opera singers. The Town Hall was rocking! The past year’s scholarship student also played a well-practiced piece on the piano.

Thank you very much for your support and contribution. Thank you, Sue Petito, for your hard work. See you at the musicale next year!

Meme Lincoln

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The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$10 per family or \$5 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

**Citizens Association Officers:**

Co-presidents: Matt Stavish

Ken Schwartz

Vice president: Gene Brantly

Treasurer: Anne Mizoguchi

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Out-of-town subscriptions cost \$13 (first class) or \$10 (bulk mail). Letters to the editor can be submitted to Mary Moyer, Box 98, or by email (contact Barbara Collier). The editors reserve the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

# Town Administrator Notes

**Town Elections:** This was the first time I have been responsible for overseeing an election process—I have run for office 7 times (won 4 times!), but being a candidate is a lot different from being a clerk. Happily, it all went smoothly. Many thanks for the fine work of Chief Election Judge Brenda Artim and Judges Susan Frant and Pat Loeb on election day. Kelly O'Brien and I would also thank Glenda Ingham for her help and advice. Who knows better than Glenda how to run a Town election? And last, but by no means least, we would like to thank the residents who came to the polls on April 5 and cast their votes.

An election is, of course, a political event as well as part of the governmental process, and there will always be different views on Town government. It is my hope that every resident of the Town feels that they can come to the Town Office, whether for routine business, some information, or a visit to discuss anything related to Garrett Park, no matter what their views on any given issue may be. Like each of you, I have views of my own, but my job is to serve the Town as a whole and make every one of you feel welcome when you come to the office. So please, if you need help, information, or have something on your mind, stop by the Town Hall and visit us. We will be glad to see you.

**Penn Place Project:** By the time you read this, Harry Gordon, Chair of the Penn Place Committee, will have held a "Sidewalk Tour" of Penn Place to show residents the recently discovered water and insect damage to the building's structure. Repairing this damage has slightly delayed the onset of major construction at the site, but soon there will be a great deal of activity.

This means increased traffic on Kenilworth and Waverly, and perhaps Montrose and Clermont, as well, as workers and supply trucks drive to and from the site. We will try to keep all heavy traffic to the Kenilworth/Waverly route, but those of you who live along all the streets providing access to Strathmore Avenue, please be alert and careful. If you have children who walk to the tennis courts, the Post Office, or around the north side of Town, please remind them to use the sidewalks, keep an eye out for trucks, and to look both ways before they cross the street. Let's have a safe and happy summer!

**Sidewalks:** Speaking of sidewalks, the Council has decided not to proceed with further sidewalk work on the north side of Town. The contractor hired to repair the roads and sidewalks last year, AB Consultants, has not been performing up to the standard the Town had expected, so the Town will exercise its option to reduce the contract. The Council will review options concerning needed sidewalk work that has yet to be undertaken. For further information, please call the Town Office.

**Town Hall:** Even though the Town Office is in the rear of Town Hall, we continue to rent the building for a wide range of events. Last month the Brownies had an overnight, and we have had all sorts of wonderful events this year. The entire office gets folded up and put away, so only the room where I work is closed. Lots of good dates are available this summer and fall, so why not book an evening for that family reunion that has gotten too big for your yard, or for that special event for which our lovely venue would be just right? Just call the Town Office.

I will be away on vacation in the Isle of Man from May 27 to June 11. Kelly O'Brien will hold the fort while I am away. I am sure things will carry on smoothly in my absence.

Ted Pratt  
Town Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer



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## Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ Considering that the day was rainy and the voting place unusual, turnout for this year's uncontested election was not bad: out of 761 qualified voters, 202 (about 26%) voted. This percentage is consistent with that for the last uncontested election: in 2002, turnout was about 24%. (The actual percentages are probably somewhat higher, as the voter rolls carry former and deceased residents for several years.) Of the total number of ballots cast this year, 33 were rejected because of irregularities. Of the 169 ballots counted, 136 were cast for Mayor Benjamin, 147 for Chris Keller, 158 for Elin Quigley, 150 for Carolyn Shawaker, and 161 for Hans Wegner. Next year, how about a contested election?
- ♪ The Unterman family would like it to be known that they are not selling their home and moving out of town, as some have erroneously heard. Only their son is leaving temporarily to go to college.
- ♪ Probably by the time you read this, the new window clerk at the Post Office will be trained and ready to handle the rush. The Post Office is happy to announce that Maria Ramirez is a new addition to the staff. She has worked for USPS for 15 years but never before as a window person. With Maria's arrival, we say thanks to David Apkan, who has been helping out with the distribution of the mail since last December. Also, note that the time to get into the PO through the locked door has been extended to 9 pm, because several people requested it.
- ♪ Jeanne Mandelblatt announces a street dance to be held on Saturday, June 28, at 10716 Montrose from 6:30 to 10 pm to benefit the Colon Cancer Alliance. The money raised will sponsor two walkers for the alliance in October. Live music will be provided by the Newports, and food and drink will be offered. There will also be limited babysitting. Contact Jeanne Mandelblatt by phone for information.
- ♪ A note from Donna Driscoll, retired teacher at Garrett Park Elementary: "Dear Friends, After many memorable years at GPES, I am formally retiring. Teaching there provided me with wonderful friendships and a lifetime of memories with your children. I am looking forward to spending time with my family and becoming a grandmother for the first time this summer! This is a new and wonderful time in my life. I look ahead to it with excitement, while I happily reflect on my Garrett Park years. I hope our paths will cross in years to come. With warm regards, Donna Driscoll."

## Letter to the Editor

### Penn Place Objections

The management of the Penn Place project has been a prime example of undemocratic tactics. The Penn Place Committee, using the cover of a "charette," charged forward as interpreter of our town's needs. Claiming devotion to the central role of the post office, for instance, they ignored the common good of the people of town in their positioning of it. On one occasion, a suggestion to relocate the post office (by coincidence, to its current temporary location) was dismissed with the killing observation that "it would cost \$4 million."

Assuming that centralizing all town and commercial functions was the town's heartfelt desire, the committee had required of the poor architect that all these functions be squeezed within a narrow site, several yards from the main tracks of the B&O Railroad. The fact was that our town functions very nicely with a community center, schools, town hall, post office, library, swimming pool, tennis courts, and lots of free parking scattered over more than a hundred acres.

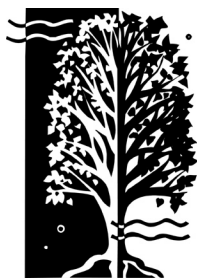
Today, the project, having completed demolition, is about to proceed with the rebuilding. It is a critical stage. I understand that contracts have been signed. I am proposing that the Council step in with a request for a hold on all construction in order to discuss an alternative solution that will not only be less expensive, but will include recompense to any contractor suffering loss by a delay.

My proposal is inspired by the incredible serendipity resulting from two acts of the Penn Place Committee. One is their brilliant selection of the present site for the temporary post office, and second is the demolition of the accretion of cinder block over the years to Mrs. Penn's historic building, revealing the fourth side, not seen in over 50 years. It is now in full view for all to see, including all the heroic preservationists who over the years fought for every historic detail that could be saved. The new plan would simply leave the present building intact. The interior would include space for the Mayor, Peter Benjamin; administrators Ted Pratt and Kelly O'Brien; tenants Carl and Dolores of Maison Maurice; a fireproof town archive, and a Garrett Park museum.

Former tenants that we can round up, especially Lynn Foster and her restaurant, would move into their own building. Butch would get new and better quarters, and his old place, remodeled, might become a cocktail bar. Construction and design would be limited to favored architects and contractors who have already been on the project. No work would require tree removal. Mayor Benjamin and the committee should be proud that all those early efforts have proved timely and productive.

Donal McLaughlin

(An artist's sketch of this design is posted on the Post Office Bulletin Board.)



## Arboretum Notes

### New Trees in Town

By the time you receive this issue of the *Bugle*, the Town's annual program of replacement tree planting will be well under way. In recent years, the Town has planted about twice as many trees as are lost each year. As the number of appropriate planting sites diminishes (and in response to current budget concerns), this pace will slacken in the next several years. The Garrett Park Arboretum now has a collection of over 400 different trees and shrubs, and as a result, it offers wonderful educational opportunities.

It is always useful to remember that the purposes of Garrett Park as an Arboretum, particularly long-term, are several and very important:

- To provide shade by maintaining the canopy of large shade trees.
- To provide beautiful flowers at different times of the year, but particularly in the spring.
- To provide a variety of fine fall color.
- To provide winter interest.
- To provide a botanic variety to achieve strength in diversity.

The following are some of the trees added so far this spring, with some explanations of their contribution to the Arboretum:

**Red maples**—An 'Autumn Spire' red maple (*Acer rubrum* 'Autumn Spire') at 10801 Montrose adds to the "mini-collection" of red maples in the 4700 block of Oxford. Generally, it is currently considered the better practice to avoid large plantings of a single type of tree, to avoid the problems associated with even-aged stands and monocultures. Monocultures create the possibility of the loss of an entire group of trees if the trees become susceptible to a disease or insect for which there is no cure (Dutch elm disease, for example, has decimated American elms), or if all simply reach old age at the same time. In Garrett Park, we have some exceptions to this policy—such as the rows of sugar maples along Kenilworth and Waverly between Strathmore and Penn Place—for historic reasons, and because the brilliant fall color looks so wonderful in masses. We also plant small stands of similar trees, not only for uniformity of appearance, but also because it serves an educational function to be able to view first hand the variations in different cultivars of the same species.

**Dogwoods**—Three new dogwoods on Rokeby add to the collection of dogwoods adjacent to Wells Park and in the 11100 block of Rokeby. A variegated giant dogwood (*Cornus controversa* 'Variegata') has been added near the "Wells Park" sign at Rokeby and Argyle; it has elegant

green and white leaves. At 11111 Rokeby, two named varieties—'Cherokee Princess' and 'Cloud Nine'—of the native dogwood (*Cornus florida*) were also added.

**Ashes**—Two ash trees have been planted in the 11300 block of Kenilworth—'Urbanite' green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica* 'Urbanite') has deep bronze fall color, and 'Autumn Purple' (*Fraxinus americana* 'Autumn Purple') is a white ash noted for its spectacular fall colors, which range from orange to purple. Added at 10913 Clermont Avenue is an autumn-flowering Higan cherry (*Prunus subhirtella* 'Autumnalis'), a tree with multi-season interest—spring and fall bloom, showy brown bark, and yellow to bronze leaf color in fall.

**Maples**—Two small maples were planted at 4709 Albemarle. These add to an extensive collection of small maples in the 11100 and 11200 blocks of Kenilworth near Albemarle; the trees—all less than 20 ft at maturity—were chosen to stay under the ever-increasing number of utility lines.

**Watering.** If we experience a drought this summer or fall, as in the past, citizens are asked to help water the new trees and shrubs that are adjacent to their property. Simply water once a week with a slow stream of water from a hose. Let it run several hours to make sure the subsurface also receives water. Thank you.

**Reminder.** Remember that trees and shrubs in the Town's rights of way are not to be trimmed, moved, or otherwise disturbed by the adjacent property owner. If you have any questions about the location of a Town right of way, please call the Town Office.

**Next meeting.** The next meeting of the Arboretum Committee will be June 12, 2003, 8 pm, at 10808 Clermont Avenue, the home of Beth Irons. Garrett Park residents are always welcome at the meetings.

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## Phyllis Baylin

Phyllis Baylin, mother of Victoria Baylin and three-year resident on Kenilworth Avenue, passed away at age 65 on May 5, 2003. She enjoyed her daily visits to the Post Office, the haunting whistle of the trains, and as an avid gardener, the trees and flowers throughout the town. She will be deeply missed by both her family and friends.

Dee Lichtenstein

## Margaret Stirewalt Lincicome

Dr. Margaret Stirewalt Lincicome passed away on April 19, 2003, at the age of 92. Professionally she was known under her maiden name of Stirewalt and was a world authority in the field of schistosomiasis. A Celebration of a Life was held for her on May 1 at the Saint Luke Lutheran Church in Silver Spring, where she had been a very active member for over 50 years.

David Lincicome

## Anne Hubbell Lustig

Anne Hubbell Lustig passed away on April 8, 2003. She was the wife of Peter Lustig and the mother of two small children. Peter, the son of Ted and Ulla Lustig, grew up here in Garrett Park, where Ulla still lives.

Ulla Lustig

## Norman Modine

Norman Modine died April 22, 2003. He was 87. He leaves behind daughters Karen Fiocchi and Susan Modine, sons Michael and David Modine, and five grandchildren. Also surviving him is former wife Barbara Modine. Memorial contributions can be made to the American Friends Service Committee, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

## Colin Herrle

Colin Herrle of Kenilworth Avenue lost his fight with cancer on Wednesday, May 14. A funeral was held at Holy Cross Church on May 19. A more complete obituary will appear in the next *Bugle*.

## Vernon Arthur Lamb

Vernon Lamb (93) passed away on April 27, 2003, at the St. Luke Lutheran Home in Spencer, Iowa. A private memorial service will be held in August. Vern lived in Garrett Park from 1941 to 1968. He was on the Town Council, was active in the Citizens Association, helped to erect and finish the community center, and worked backstage on several Garrett Players productions in the 1950s. He and the family lived on Rokeby until 1949, and then at 10802 Kenilworth until they moved away to a farm in Royal, Iowa.

Vernon Lamb attended Iowa State University, the University of California at Berkeley, and the University of Iowa. He received a Ph.D. in chemistry at Iowa in 1937 and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. In 1934 he married Leone Shelmidine, and taught chemistry at the Universities of Iowa, Wisconsin, and Maryland before entering a 30-year career at the National Bureau of Standards (now the National Institute of Standards and Technology). He published more than 40 scientific papers, held several patents, and received numerous awards.

He is survived by his wife, Leone; sons James of Charlotte, North Carolina; Michael of Tucson, Arizona; Donald of Matthews, North Carolina; and John of rural Spencer, Iowa; and 9 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

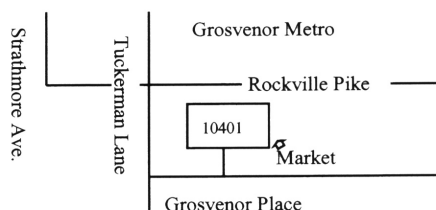
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## Letter from the Mayor

Our new Town Council has two new members and one who has served less than a year, so a majority of the Council brings fresh, new views, additional energy, and different perspectives to our Town government. All the Council members are dedicated, concerned, and knowledgeable, wanting to bring their talents and philosophies to assist in shaping the future of Garrett Park.

We met the weekend after the election to organize and to trade ideas on what issues we would have to deal with and what areas we wanted to tackle in the coming year. At the top of the agenda was communication: what can we do to make sure that the citizens of our Town know what the Council is doing, have ample opportunity for input, are heard, and have their views considered? We welcome the active participation of the Citizens Association in the process. The Citizens Association is upgrading the Town website and has offered to include Council agendas and summaries of meetings on the site, as well as a copy of the *Bugle* after it is prepared and before it is printed and distributed, and it is considering sending emails on Town issues to those who request it. The Citizens Association will also host several forums on issues of importance to the residents. The Council has reaffirmed the importance of making citizen comment an important part of Council and Town committee meetings, of holding forums and information sessions, and of using postings, mailings, and the *Bugle* as means of getting messages out. We continue to look for new and better ways to make sure that all of you are part of the decision-making process.

We also ask you to do your part. If you do not come to meetings, if you do not speak up in forums, if you do not read the *Bugle* or the Town mailings, if you do not check the website or peruse the postings in the Post Office, it is difficult for us to reach you or to hear your ideas. As an example, we have been working on a new street lighting plan for longer than I have been a resident of this Town, with numerous committee meetings and debates of the subject. In the last two years the effort has become very focused. Plans have been developed, and several Citizens Association meetings and Town forums held to review the ideas, as well as the specific placement of streetlights, their design and operation, and the

lighting characteristics. Three model lights were placed on Oxford Street, and Town citizens were asked to comment. Then a plan was posted for several weeks in the Post Office showing which lights would be replaced, which new lights would be installed, where new poles would go, and which existing poles would be removed. Signs were placed on all poles where lights would be removed or added, and large stakes with signs were placed where new poles would be. A letter was sent to all Town residents telling them of all this and asking for comments. The results were brought to the Town Council and again posted in the Post Office, with some adjustment of the signs on the streets, and yet another set of notices in the *Bugle*, etc. Finally, after several more discussions, we signed the contract for Pepco to begin installation, which has now begun. At the last Town Council meeting, two citizens complained that a light on their street was being moved, and that no one had ever told them that it was happening. I am sure that they are not the only ones in Town who will be surprised. Communication is a two-way process. We can try to reach out to you, but we also need you to do your part.

Before I end this letter, let me cover one more facet of the issue. Some people say that they do try to bring their views to the Council, but it never does what they say, and therefore it is not worth talking to the Council. I think many more of you have seen the Council respond positively to your comments. But in most decisions, there will be someone whose views were followed, and another whose weren't. It is inherent in the process. I know that the Councils with which I have worked have always tried to do what they think is best for the Town. Your view may not always be adopted, but I believe that it is always heard and considered. Again, the streetlights. To the best of my knowledge, every comment and request regarding the plan was accommodated (with the exception of those that said don't do it at all), even though that meant substantial redesign of some sections. But the process cannot go on endlessly. Once the final plan is completed, the contract signed, and work begun, it is too late to make significant changes. Please help us to work with you.

Peter Benjamin

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## Needed for the Next *Bugle*

We need the names of any residents who have graduated from high school, college, or other institutes of higher learning to put into our next issue. From all appearances, this seems to be another lean year for college graduates; so far there is only one. We also need to have any dates you may wish to include on the calendar for the summer months, since the June issue of the *Bugle* will be the last to come out until September 20, 2003. Get in touch with Mary Moyer (by phone or Box 98) by June 6 with either item.

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## Still Green!

Our angels for the May and June banners are Mary Jane and Paul Edlund. We thank them for their thoughtfulness. If you care to donate from \$25 to \$37 to pay for the green ink of an issue, please send your check made out to the Citizens Association to Box 98, and I'll add you to our donor list. We are currently paid up until December 2003, but we would love to get the rest of the printing year covered. We order the banners all at once at the beginning of the printing year (September) to keep costs down, so anything you can do will be greatly appreciated. Thanks.

# Progress at Penn Place

You may have wondered why there’s been less visible action at the job site this past month. Extensive water and insect damage to the wood wall and floor framing was exposed by the removal of the aluminum and asbestos siding, the enclosed and open front porches, the rear addition, and layers of interior flooring. Structurally unsound previous renovations were discovered. Water has deteriorated the mortar in the 19th century stone foundation walls. Portions of the wall were crumbling.

Starting on the interior, we’ve begun to repair this damage to the historic building this past month. Most of the work has been done out of view, on the inside of the original stone foundation walls. The deterioration of these walls has been repaired by an acrylic modified cement mortar. This strengthens the wall to prepare it for underpinning.

Underpinning is a process of putting concrete footings beneath the existing stone foundation wall to increase the height of the wall, which will give approximately eight feet of headroom throughout the plaza level. This process will be done in small sections to minimize the disruption to the original stone walls.

The 19th century wood exterior walls were built by the now visible wood siding being nailed directly to the wall studs, which is a substandard method of construction used on some homes of the same period in Garrett Park, as well as on Penn Place. There is no moisture barrier between the exterior surfaces and the interior wood framing. This has permitted the penetration of water, causing much of the deterioration to the wood frame.

During this past month, Harry Gordon has been working with Kfoury Construction Group, Wiedemann Architects, and their structural engineers to devise and price methods of correcting the structural, water, and insect problems.

Because this is a renovation project, the construction budget has always had a contingency fund for such unforeseen circumstances. While the deterioration is more extensive than we expected and will use more of the contingency fund than we expected, at this time, the project is still on budget and on schedule to re-open in early 2004.

Bob Reinhardt,  
Penn Place Committee